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Melissa Thompson
Senior Attorney

February 16, 2005

Ms. Ilona Jeffcoat-Sacco
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue -- 12th Floor
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Qwest/MCI metro Access Transmission Services, L.L.C. ("MCI") Agreement for
Commercial Line Sharing

Dear Ms. Jeffcoat-Sacco:

Qwest Corporation and MCI have signed two documents relating to the provisioning by Qwest to MCI of the high frequency portion of the loop. MCI uses the high frequency portion of the loop to provide digital subscriber line (DSL) services to its end user customers. Both of these documents are available for public inspection; there are no confidentiality provisions for either. I am writing to you today to provide additional information as to whether the section 252 filing obligation under the Telecommunications Act applies to these two documents.

The first of these two documents, the one entitled "Commercial Line-Sharing Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement" signed February 3, 2005 ("Line Sharing Amendment") is a final agreement amending MCI's existing interconnection agreement. Qwest is filing the Line Sharing Amendment with the Commission pursuant to the requirements of section 252 of the Telecommunications Act and is seeking the approval of the Commission.

The second document, entitled "Terms and Conditions for Commercial Line Sharing Arrangements," signed February 3, 2005 ("Commercial Line Sharing Arrangement"), is a final, binding agreement. But, for the reasons stated below, the Commercial Line Sharing Arrangement is not within the section 252 filing requirement and thus Qwest has not filed it with the Commission formally under section 252. Qwest is attaching a copy of the Commercial Line Sharing Arrangement to this letter for the Commission's information.

The FCC's Triennial Review Order (TRO) and the resulting Rules eliminate the obligation under section 251(c) to provide the high frequency portion of a copper loop beginning the effective date of the TRO, subject to the transitional line sharing conditions set forth in the TRO and the Rules. Rule 51.319(a)(1)(i). The transitional rules apply where the requesting telecommunications carrier begins providing DSL service to a particular end-user customer on or before one year after the effective date of the TRO. Rule 51.319(a)(1)(i)(B). For new DSL services provisioned after one year after the effective date of the TRO, the transitional rules do

not apply, and under the TRO and Rules, the incumbent LEC has no obligation under section 251(c)(3) to unbundle the high frequency portion of the loop.

In sum, under the TRO and the Rules, section 251(c)(3) may apply for new DSL services provisioned within one year after the effective date of the Order, which will be October 1, 2004. But for new DSL services provisioned after October 1, 2004, Qwest as the incumbent LEC does not have a section 251(c)(3) obligation to provide the high frequency portion of the loop.

As stated by the FCC, the section 252 filing obligation applies to "an agreement that creates an *ongoing* obligation pertaining to resale, number portability, dialing parity, access to rights-of-way, reciprocal compensation, interconnection, unbundled network elements, or collocation." *In the Matter of Qwest Communications International Inc. Petition for Declaratory Ruling on the Scope of the Duty to File and Obtain Prior Approval of Negotiated Contractual Arrangements under Section 252(a)(1)*, para. 8 (emphasis that of the FCC).

Combining the analysis of the TRO with the FCC's Declaratory Ruling regarding section 252, the filing requirement may apply to an incumbent LEC's provisioning of the high frequency portion of the loop for new DSL orders placed by October 1, 2004. In contrast, for new DSL services placed after October 1, 2004, there are no section 251(c) obligations upon the incumbent to provide the high frequency portion of the loop as an unbundled network element, and thus there are no section 252 filing obligations.

To be consistent with the structure of the TRO, the transitional rules, section 251(c)(3) and section 252, Qwest and MCI negotiated one agreement for new DSL services placed by October 1, 2004, and a second to govern new DSL services placed after October 1, 2004. An agreement addressing DSL services placed by October 1, 2004 is an amendment to the parties' interconnection agreement and, thus, Qwest is filing the Line Sharing Amendment with the Commission under section 252. We believe that the second document, the Commercial Line Sharing Arrangements, which governs DSL services placed after October 1, 2004, is not subject to section 251(c)(3) or section 252 and, thus, it has not been filed formally.

For the Commission's information, we have attached a copy of the Commercial Line Sharing Arrangements for DSL services placed after October 1, 2004. Qwest also will post a copy of that agreement on its wholesale website for public review, and Qwest is making that agreement available to any telecommunications carrier that assumes all of its terms and obligations.

Contact information for MCI is as follows:

Chad Warner, Carrier Relations (Qwest Region)
MCImetro Access Transmission Services, L.L.C.
6312 S. Fiddler's Green Circle, Suite 600E
Englewood, CO 80111
Telephone: 303-217-4214

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Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa K. Thompson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa K. Thompson

Enclosure

cc: Mel Kambeitz (w/o enclosures)
Chad Warner (w/o enclosures)